May 26. 1991

To: Michael Clark, Chair
Division of Humanities and Literature
Widener University

From: Frank B. Ford
Associate Professor--English (ret)
West Chester University

Jim Esch combines creativity with practicality. The latter has served him in his position at Commodore, where he has taken projects from literally scratch to finished printing--handling all the inevitable headaches enroute with grace and aplomb.

In the former, his stories and poems explore the territory of the imagination: they are not written to imitate or to please. I can think of no better model for writing students than
a teacher who himself experiments, and yet has seasoning in the dollarsandcents world of business and technical writing to pass along alsoindispensible, too, in producing a college literary magazine.

His academic career both at West Chester University, and The University of Texas was distinguised. As a teacher, he has shown great humor and patience.

If he fits in with Widener's plans, Professor Clark, the relationship will prove to be long and fruitful I am sure.